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First record of *Nanobagrus armatus* (Siluriformes: Bagridae) in Sumatra, Indonesia

by

Doni SETIAWAN (1), AJIMAN (2) & Muhammad IQBAL* (3)

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Résumé. – Premier signalement de *Nanobagrus armatus* (Siluriformes, Bagridae) à Sumatra, Indonésie.

En mars 2017, un spécimen de *Nanobagrus armatus* a été capturé et photographié dans la rivière Keroh, dans la province du sud de Sumatra. Auparavant, *N. armatus* n'était connu que de la partie indonésienne de Bornéo. Cette observation est donc la première pour Sumatra.

Key words. – Siluriformes – Bagridae – *Nanobagrus armatus* – Sumatra – Mini bagrid – Keroh River – Freshwater – First record.

The genus *Nanobagrus* was previously considered monotypic, with *Akysis armatus* Vaillant, 1902, being the only described species (Ng, 2008, 2010). Members of the genus are diagnosed from other bagrid catfishes by their miniature adult size (maximum size under ca 45 mm SL); reduced supraoccipital process; reduced anterior nuchal-plate element; and posterior cranial fontanel large and prominent (Ng, 2008; Thomson *et al*., 2008). Its members typically inhabit small, forested streams with a moderate current. Recently, seven species of *Nanobagrus* have been described from the Sunda shelf: *N. armatus* (Vaillant, 1902) (eastern and western Borneo), *N. fuscus* (Popta, 1904) (Borneo, Malay Peninsula and Sumatra), *N. immaculatus* Ng, 2008 (southern Borneo), *N. nebulosus* Ng & Tan, 1999 (southern Malay Peninsula), *N. lemniscatus* Ng, 2010 (Malay Peninsula), *N. stellatus* Tan & Ng, 2000 (central and southern Sumatra) and *N. torquatus* Thomson, López, Hadiaty & Page, 2008 (southern Sumatra) (Ng, 2008, 2010; Thomson *et al*., 2008).

A study to explore the fish diversity of the Keroh River (riparian of Lematang drainage) was carried out in March 2017. Most fishes were collected from local fishermen. The river is surrounded by rubber plantation and secondary forest remains.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

During the field sampling on 26 March 2017, a mini bagrid catfish of 3 cm total length (TL) was observed and photographed (Fig. 1) in Sungai Keroh (03°20'08.8"S, 104°10'54.4"E). Administratively, the Keroh River is located in Sungai Medang village, Cambai subdistrict, Prabumulih district, South Sumatra province (Fig. 2)

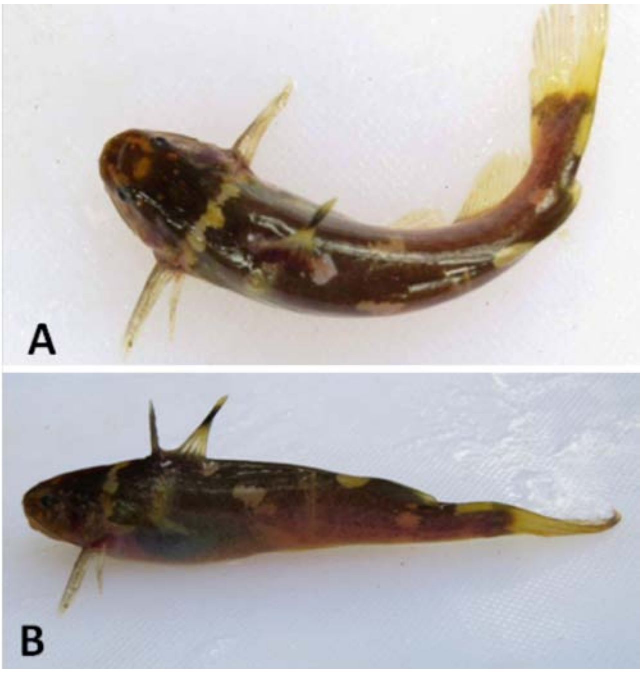

Figure 1. – *Nanobagrus armatus* (3 cm TL). **A**: Dorsal view; **B**: Flank side.

The fish has a brown body with numerous cream-coloured spots and two relatively large and irregular cream-coloured patches on the sides of the body, features characteristic of *N. armatus* (Ng and Tan, 1999; Ng, 2008) (Fig. 1A, B). Previously, we putatively assigned this species to either *N. stellatus* or *N. torquatus*, two mini bagrid catfishes that occur in Sumatra (Ng, 2010; Kottelat, 2013). However, *N. stellatus* differs from *N. armatus* in having a more slender body (body depth at anus 14.1-15.9% SL *vs* 16.0-21.0), shorter adipose-fin base (length of adipose-fin base 12.8-16.4% SL *vs* 16.52-1.6), larger eyes (eye diameter 12.3-16.1% HL *vs* 9.0-12.5) and more vertebrae (3 4-36 *vs* 33-34); and the colour patterns of the two species also differ: while *N. stellatus* has a pattern consisting of a brown body with a series of cream-coloured spots along the lateral line, another two longitudinal rows of cream-coloured spots are located above and below the lateral lines, respectively (Tan and Ng, 2000). Another *Nanobagrus* in Sumatra, *N. torquatus,* is distinguished from other *Nanobagrus* by the presence of a single distinct yellow/cream band around the body just behind the head (*vs* three or more bands on body, or body lacking distinct bands),

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(1) Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Sriwijaya University, Jalan Raya Palembang-Prabumulih km 32, Indralaya, Sumatera Selatan 30662, Indonesia. [doniunsri@gmail.com]

(2) Community of Conservation, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Sriwijaya University, Jalan Raya Palembang-Prabumulih km 32, Indralaya, Sumatera Selatan 30662, Indonesia. [ajimanbrm@gmail.com]

(3) Conservation Biology Program, Faculty of Science, Sriwijaya University, Jalan Padang Selasa 524, Palembang, Sumatera Selatan 30129, Indonesia.

* Corresponding author [kpbsos26@yahoo.com]

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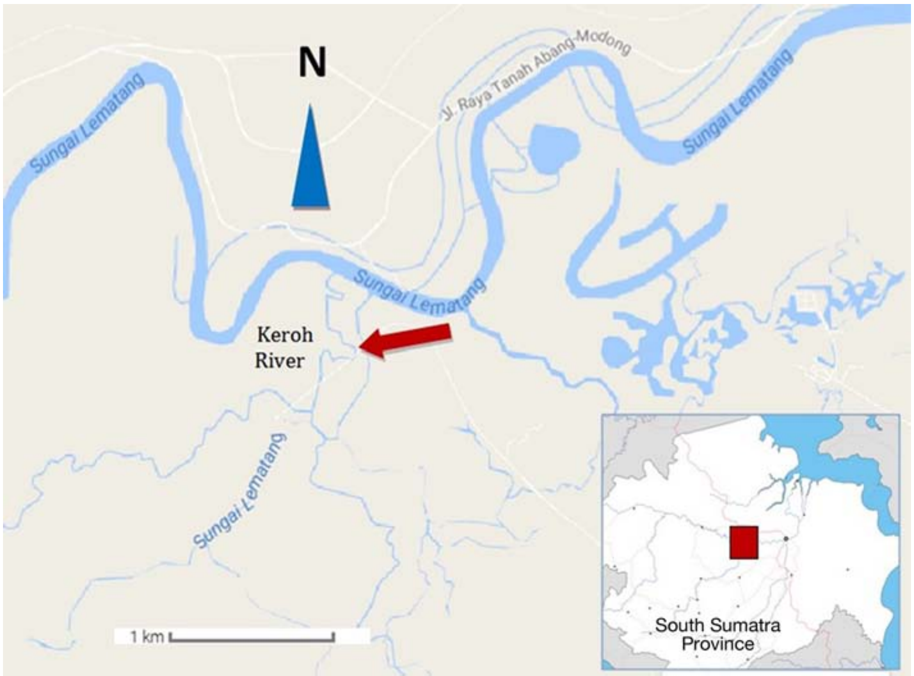

Figure 2. – Map showing the exact location of *Nanobagrus armatus* in the Keroh River, South Sumatra province.

and further distinguished from *N. armatus* by its more slender body and body depth at anus 11.9-14.6% SL (*vs* 16.0-21.0) (Thomson *et al*., 2008). Our identification was further confirmed by Dr. Ng Heok Hee (Pers. Comm. to Muhammad Iqbal).

This finding is of interest as it provides the first occurrence of this species in Sumatra, and extends its range distribution of up to 700 km. The previously known distribution of *N. armatus* was limited to Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) at the Mahakam and Kapuas drainages (Ng, 2008, 2010; Kottelat, 2013). The absence of *N. armatus* observations in previous surveys in Sumatra could result from its small size, uncommonness and lacking local experts to perform exact identifications. Further survey and specimen collections are needed to learn more about basic ecological information and distribution of *Nanobagrus* in Sumatra.

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